

Claim 43 has been replaced by new claim 53 to clarify which cysteine is deleted or replaced and to bring the claim in line with the allowed claim language of U.S. Serial No. 564,224. By the present language it is clear what position 17 means, regardless of whether the first sixteen amino acids of IFN- β have been deleted or if amino acids have been added.

Claim 48 has been cancelled since it is a duplicate of claim 47, and the appropriate correction has been made to claims 50-53 (claim 53 has been properly renumbered) which referred to claim 48.

With regard to the Disclosure Statement, the Examiner is invited to inspect the files of the parent applications where Disclosure Statements have been filed and copies of the references cited were supplied. In the event an additional Disclosure Statement is required or desired for the instant application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney and a Disclosure Statement will be filed forthwith.

It is requested that the Examiner make of record the attached European Patent Application Publication No. 131,816, published January 23, 1985 and based on a UK priority of July 1, 1983. The patent publication discloses and claims interferon- β compounds where modifications of 1-56 amino acids are made. It is to be noted that applicants' effective filing date predates the effective filing date of the European patent publication.

Also, it is requested that the Examiner make of record the attached article (T. Shiroishi et al., "Role of a Disulfide Bridge in the Immune Function of Major Histocompatibility Class 1 Antigen as Studied by In Vitro Mutagenesis", PNAS, 81, pp. 7544-7548, December, 1984). While the article postdates the effective and actual filing dates of the instant application, it is of interest to the subject application, since it discloses replacing non-essential cysteines with serine.

In view of the importance of the instant application and the allowance of the parent application, applicants request expedited action with respect to the above-identified application.

A favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
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